My dear Father Singleton,

At the time that I received your very witty and amusing letter of Sept^br 27, and I may add instructive as far as its contents are in unison with the doctrines of the Holy See, now tenanted by Gregory the 16^th of holy life, I was quite unable to thank you for it. On the day on which I wrote to you in my passage thro' London, I was sadly out of sorts; but still I strove hard to keep up my spirits; and when I delivered my letter at Northumberland House, I was scarcely able to drag one foot after the other. On our return to Rome from the shipwreck, I was aware that the unwholesome season had set in; and an attack of malaria fever, left me no doubt on the subject. Having effectually subdued the fever, I was attacked in about three weeks after, by a most obstinate diarrhea. This tormented me fearfully all the way in my journey home, thro' Italy Switzerland & Dear catholic Belgium. On my arrival at Walton Hall, it became decided dysentery of the most alarming kind. Luckily for me, I was attended by our justly celebrated Doctor Hobson of Leeds. Long and dubious was the struggle. At last, his gigantic efforts, joined to my own iron constitution, broke down the disease, and I am now well again. My strength, and the flesh which I had lost, are returning apace, and I trust that I have nothing more to fear. Nothing could exceed the prostration of strength which I experienced when the malady was at its height, and I might truly have cried out with Ovid, "Parva sunt vires, invalidaque mihi. —

You ask me about my boy? — What shall I tell you? — Is a parent to be trusted when he speaks of his only treasure? —

The lad is comely and extremely well made, and very tall for his age, which reaches eleven years and a half. His forehead has the appearance of possessing great powers of calculation. We have kept a hawk's eye on him, and his two maternal aunts who are living with me, have taken such unremitting care of him, that he has never been exposed to hear one improper word. Such is his innocence, that, at the professed house of the Jesuits in Rome, at which house, I may say he passed half of his time, he went by the name of "il angelletto". Cardinal Franzoni took great interest in him, and often extolled his innocence and his talents. On grand occasions, he was mitre-bearer to the Cardinal. The boy is now at Stonyhurst under the care of the good Jesuits of that establishment. We have just got information that he is second in his class, and that he gives universal satisfaction. "Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined."

When I look back into English politics during my absence from home, I find every thing so changed, that I consider myself a kind of Rip Van Winkle whose adventure is so richly described in the sketch book. — Where are the once powerful Whigs? — sunk into nothingness thro' their own greediness and deceit. May they lie where they are fallen. — Where are the Tories, — the catholic fearing and hating Tories? — lop at the top of the ladder. — Placed there by the aristocracy in order that it may keep a little longer the plunder which it most unjustly got possessed of at the Reformation so called. In what state are the middle and lower classes of England? — Bankrupts, — discontented, ill fed, ill clothed, immoral and seditious, committing murders, robberies and suicides, surpassing any thing of the kind in barbarous nations. What is a catholic country gentleman to do in this strife of politics, and prostration of national virtue? — Why, there is only one way for him to act, — and that is, to keep himself perfectly disengaged from all parties: — to keep a steady eye on passing events and to be ready to step forward in his country's cause — when he can be of service, with honor to himself and credit to his religion. And not to budge one inch till that happy period arrive. It is not far off. — A debt of eight hundred millions, together with its necessary and unnumbered evils, will raise up a political storm, which no prudence or patriotism of modern legislators (if they have any) will be able to appease; whilst the doings at Oxford, will shine upon benighted England like a sun's ray in a furious tempest, and cast a dismal gloom upon the hollowness of the Church by law established.

The men of Oxford cannot stand still. On they must go; and every deed of theirs will tend more and more to shew, how much this country has lost by the reformation; and what she must do, to repair her damage. I could like to see Phillpotts's face when he is reading in the Standard, information from Oxford. I am not personally acquainted with his Grace, but I should like to ask him in a low whisper at his elbow, if he sees any immediate chance of a rise in the price of fagots. — I have a vast deal of underwood in my plantations just now, and I should not wish to lose the opportunity of turning a penny.

If you are at Northumberland house, pray make my kindest remembrance to the Duke & Duchess; and believe me to remain, my dear Father Simpleton

Your ever attached friend & servant

Charles Waterton

Walton Hall
Dec 10. 1841

To the very Reverend

Arch-Deacon Singleton

Walton Hall near Wakefield
July 27th. 1853.

To George Mackay
10 Buckingham Street
Strand
London.

Sir

State your complaint against me, in a Newspaper. Send that paper to me, and I will answer you to your heart's content, in the Leeds Intelligencer.

I am, Sir
Very respectfully &c

Charles Waterton.

WA JY27 D
1853

POSTAGE
ONE PENNY

To

George Mackay

10 Buckingham Street

Strand

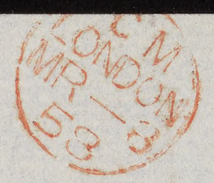
London

KEFIELD

Walton Hall. March 7th 1858

Dear Sir, You are quite welcome to the Catalogue which I enclose. The reason why none of the pictures appeared in the late exhibiteon at Manchester, was, that I declined sending any, on account of the vast numbers of Visiters who come hither to see them; - and thus I managed to keep the collection entire. I could wish you to see it. I am sure that you would be gratified. — The journey only a few hours. You could come by the North Midland, and arrive at the Oakenshaw Station, in time for our six o'clock tea, - and a good bed here, would enable you to enjoy the sights on the following day. - Oakenshaw is only two short miles from Walton Hall.

I am, dear Sir
yours truly
Charles Waterton



To

Edward Jupp Esq

Carpenter's Hall

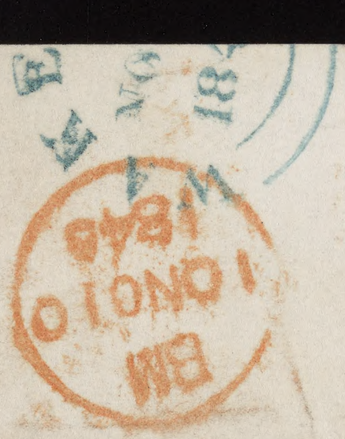
London

Walton Hall
Nov 8. 1845

My dear Sir

allow me to thank you most sincerely for your polite attention to Mrs Hobson. She is indeed a kind friend of ours, - and I have not words to express how much I esteem her: - Indeed, I may say that I owe my life to her. —
She has written me a letter full of gratitude for your attention to her, and replete with remarks of her astonishment, and gratification on seeing your immense establishment of Botany, and your unrivalled collection of humming birds. — But she adds, - she fears you are not in good health. I wish I could persuade you to take a trip to Madeira. We go thither on friday next. — If Madeira produced humming birds, I would try my hand for you. — My Sisters in law desire their kindest remembrance. Believe me, my dear Sir, with sincere esteem, ever truly yours.

Charles Waterton



To

— Loddiges Esq^r

Botanical Establishment

Hackney

London

Sir

as I should feel very sorry
to disappoint you, — I have given orders
not to dismantle the Staircase tomorrow,
preparatory to painting. As yet, nothing
has been removed but the carpets.
I would take it as a favor if you could
manage to be here not later than
eleven oclock tomorrow. — Sooner, if
convenient to you. But eleven will
suit me very well

I am Sir
Yours very respectfully
Charles Waterton

Walton Hall
Wednesday

To

Robt Hoyland Esq

Brierley